

**B. Amendment to the Claims**

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (Currently Amended) A porous article comprising:

a substrate; and

a porous material formed on the substrate, the porous material comprising a plurality of columnar pores and an area surrounding the pores, the area being an amorphous area containing C, Si, Ge or a combination thereof or an amorphous  $Si_xGe_{1-x}$  ( $x \neq 0$ ),

wherein the depth direction of the columnar pores is substantially perpendicular to the substrate,

wherein the columnar pores have a circular or elliptic cross-section in a direction parallel to the substrate, and

wherein an average interval between centers of adjacent pores is 30 nm or less.

2. (Previously Presented) The porous article according to claim 1, wherein the columnar pores are substantially unbranched.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The porous article according to claim 1, wherein the average diameter of the columnar pores is 20 nm or less.

5. (Previously Presented) The porous article according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of pores have substantially the same depth direction.

6-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) A filter prepared by a method comprising:  
providing the article of claim 1; and  
separating the porous material from the substrate.

24. (Previously Presented) A mask prepared by a method comprising:  
providing the article of claim 1; and  
separating the porous material from the substrate.

25. (New) The porous article according to claim 1, wherein an oxide film is formed on a wall surface of the columnar pores.